

ROCKFORD HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

August 8, 2006 - 6:00 PM
Conference Room B
Rockford City Hall

PRESENT Mike Pauly, Laura Bachelder, Jeanne Ludeke, Ald. Doug Mark

ABSENT Sally Faber, Maureen Flanagan, Frank St. Angel

STAFF Ginny Gregory, Sandra Hawthorne, Aaron Rucker

OTHER Joseph Zimmer (401 North Main Street), Joseph Derr (315 South Third Street), David Hagney, Jim Thacker (426 South First Street)

NEW BUSINESS

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Jeanne Ludeke at 6:10 PM.

Minutes

A **MOTION** was made by Ald. Doug Mark to **APPROVE** the minutes of the July 11th meeting. The Motion was **SECONDED** by Laura Bachelder and **CARRIED** by a vote of 4-0.

Certificates of Appropriateness

♦ 401 North Main Street (Beattie Park)

Joseph Zimmer, Architect for the Rockford Park District, explained that the gazebo in Beattie Park is part of the Indian Terrace Historic District and is in need of repair. At minimum, replacement of two columns is necessary. Mr. Zimmer stated they have located the manufacturer of the original columns. Three alternatives were under consideration. 1) Replacement of the capitals and bases of the columns with fiberglass, which would then be painted. All outside trim would be painted. 2) Replace with milled wood and add four internal fixtures; and 3) Replace all 8 columns with fiberglass. Bids for all three choices are out and a decision will not be made until bids are received. Mr. Zimmer explained the first choice is to go with fiberglass if allowed because of its durability, and if not, they would then go with milled wood. He stated the wood will not exactly match the existing columns, but will be very close. Discussion was held on covering up the gutter with the appropriate material so that debris will not accumulate and prevent drainage. This would help prevent future deterioration. The actual columns will be 12 feet, slightly tapered and would match the existing in appearance, except the top and base would be made out of fiberglass if option one

were chosen. If only two columns were replaced, they would be a perfect match. Mr. Zimmer also stated if only two columns were replaced, one light would be installed in the middle of the gazebo. If all columns were replaced, four lights would be installed in addition to a center light. If the columns are replaced with wood, the inside would be filled with a tar-type substance to prevent bugs, and would be vented to slow deterioration.

David Hagney felt fiberglass was the best choice from a longevity standpoint. The issue is to make the structure last as long as possible. Ginny Gregory pointed out that HPC guidelines are to remain with the existing material. The cupola appears to be in good shape. Mike Pauly felt that practicality pointed to the use of fiberglass.

Ald. Doug Mark made a **MOTION** to **APPROVE** any of the three options listed in the application for renovation of the Beattie Park gazebo. Fiberglass was being approved as an option to enhance the preservation of the structure, and to reduce maintenance costs using public dollars. The Motion was **SECONDED** by Laura Bachelder and **CARRIED** by a vote of 3-0-1, with Mike Pauly (Park District employee) abstaining.

♦ **315 South Third Street**

Joseph Derr, owner of the property, reviewed his request. Mr. Derr has installed a non-permanent hot tub on the northeast rear corner of his home, which is visible from the street, without receiving a Certificate of Appropriateness. He is now requesting a Certificate to install a 10' x 8' concrete pad off of the existing deck to place the hot tub on, and to surround it with a 6' high privacy fence. He stated the fence will match that of the neighbor's to the north and will be of the same height. He will use 1 x 6 fencing, flat on top, of cedar instead of treated wood. The fence will be three sided, with the deck side open.

A **MOTION** was made by Ald. Doug Mark to **APPROVE** the installation of a 10 x 8 concrete pad and a 6' privacy fence on the northeast corner of the home off of the existing deck at 315 South Third Street. The Motion was **SECONDED** by Mike Pauly and **CARRIED** by a vote of 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Certificate of Appropriateness

♦ **426 South First Street**

Jim Thacker, owner of the property, explained that he is rebuilding the front and rear porches, railings, and back stairs. He showed a photo of the porches at 311 South Second Street, the house that HPC members suggested he look at at the July meeting. His aim is to duplicate what is at this other house. Ginny explained the entire rear porch is gone at this point. Mr. Thacker said he would prefer to eliminate the lattice work that

was existing and use slats instead for skirting. The Commission felt this would be a good improvement.

A **MOTION** was made by Ald. Doug Mark to **APPROVE** the replacement of the front and rear porches, railings, and rear stairs to match those at 311 South Second Street, using slats instead of lattice for skirting. The Motion was **SECONDED** by Laura Bachelder and **CARRIED** by a vote of 4-0.

NEW BUSINESS (cont.)

Violation notices

- ♦ **515 Grove Street** – Inappropriate “hand rails” were installed without a Certificate of Appropriateness being granted. This is a vacant home owned by HUD. The hand rails installed are basically some boards nailed together with no support.
- ♦ A window air conditioner was reported. Ginny did not provide the address, and will not be taking action. She will, however, inform the owner that these units need to be removed at the end of the air conditioning season.
- ♦ **811 Garfield Avenue** – Satellite dish in the front yard. Ginny stated she will discuss the issue of satellite dishes in the yearly newsletter, then do a sweep of all districts. She wants to do this in a comprehensive manner to avoid the difficulties arising from addressing these one at a time on a complaint basis.

STAFF REPORT

- ♦ **326 South 3rd Street** is up for sale again; the owners are moving out of town.
- ♦ Haight Village is going to put **banners** up again for the Haight Village tour. Gary Anderson has assured Ginny there will be no points on the banner supports as there were last year.
- ♦ Jeanne Ludeke discussed the missing lamp light that was taken out by IDOT during the renovation of the Walnut/2nd Street intersection. Ginny also stated IDOT had until the end of the month to get black poles for the traffic lights installed at this intersection.
- ♦ **RACVB website** – can get to “Walking Tours” and can download the walking tour information they have there. It can be downloaded onto an MP3 device.
- ♦ Ginny provided an update on her meeting with Sally Faber regarding **Realtor training** for historic homes/districts and they are taking initial steps to initiate training. She has also discussed this with staff at IHPA who are interested in doing something similar.

OTHER

An individual was present to discuss his interest in purchasing a 1950s ranch in Brown's Hills/Knightsville Historic District. He would like to build a second story addition and asked if he would have to comply with all historic guidelines. Ginny explained that they would need a Certificate for an addition but that vinyl siding might be an option if the home was built after 1949.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM